



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA
Agriculture & Natural Resources



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • SOLANO COUNTY
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THE SOLANO AGRICULTURE FUTURES PROJECT

UC Cooperative Extension—Solano County

UC Agricultural Issues Center—UC Davis

At the request of Solano County Board of Supervisors, the University of California is conducting an 18-month comprehensive examination of the County's agricultural sector. Our focus is on the economic base of local agriculture—present, past, and future. The project will contribute information and insights to the current update of the County's General Plan, but it will also have independent value as a stimulus for further discussion and action by local organizations and citizens.

We will issue a series of reports and conduct a number of community forums. The project will conclude with a final report to the Board of Supervisors in October, 2007.

The work is divided into four major phases:

- 1) *Agricultural Industry Perceptions and Projections* will collect information and views from a large number of Solano County agricultural operators, primarily by engaging them in a series of a dozen or more focus groups organized according to different commodities and regions of the county. Invitees to these focus groups will also be asked to complete a questionnaire inquiring about their agricultural operations.
- 2) *Comprehensive View of Agriculture in Solano County* will produce a comprehensive, detailed profile of local agriculture. In particular, it will cover production patterns by commodity and region of the county, ownership and leasing arrangements, processing and marketing of local commodities, agricultural land markets, operator and farm/ranch family patterns, and the multiple sources of agricultural income. We will also review the history of local agriculture over the past 30 years. Information for this phase will come from existing statistical sources (Agricultural Commissioner reports, U.S. Census of Agriculture, etc.), the focus group interviews and questionnaires of Phase 1, and individual interviews.
- 3) *Lessons From Other Areas* will be based on a comparison of agricultural patterns in a half dozen other California counties similar to Solano. The emphasis will be on commodity shifts, marketing and other business changes, and the impact of urbanization and county and city policies on local agriculture.
- 4) *Future Scenarios*, the final phase of the project, will examine a variety of options for Solano County agriculture focused on the markets for agricultural products and the services provided by agricultural land.

The Agricultural Futures project will also contribute to a separate study of Suisun Valley agriculture, to be completed by the American Farmland Trust.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Carole Paterson, County Director, (707) 784 1320



University of California and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating